

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on October 9, 2003, claims 46, 48 and 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhang; claims 1, 4-7, 10, 11, 31, 32 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang; claims 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 43 and 47 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form; claims 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 23, 25-27, 29, 30, 33-41, 44 and 45 were allowed; and an objection was made to the drawings.

The limitations from claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Because claim 3 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, allowance of claims 1, 4-13, 31, 32, 42 and 43 is requested. The limitations of claim 47 have been incorporated into claim 46; and claim 46 has been additionally amended to correct an antecedent basis problem due to the claiming of "at least one transmission characteristic of the transmitter" instead of "at least one transmission characteristic of the transport medium." Because claim 47 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, allowance of claims 46-49 is requested. A substitute sheet is being submitted with this reply containing an amendment to Figure 2. As can be seen, the word "transmitter" in block 102 of Figure 2 has been changed to instead state "transmitter(s)." Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in lines 25-30 on page 3 of the application. Because the drawings now show multiple transmitters, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is requested.

Regarding the remaining § 102 rejections of claims 50-52 in view of Zhang, the Examiner refers to lines 12-19 in column 15 of Zhang to allegedly teach configuration information that includes at least one of information to indicate if a transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data and information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management. However, the language of Zhang cited by the Examiner merely states that different bit streams may have different priorities. This information does not, however, constitute configuration information that specifies whether a transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data. Thus, for at least the reason that the Examiner fails to show where Zhang teaches all limitations of claim 50, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claim 50 is requested.

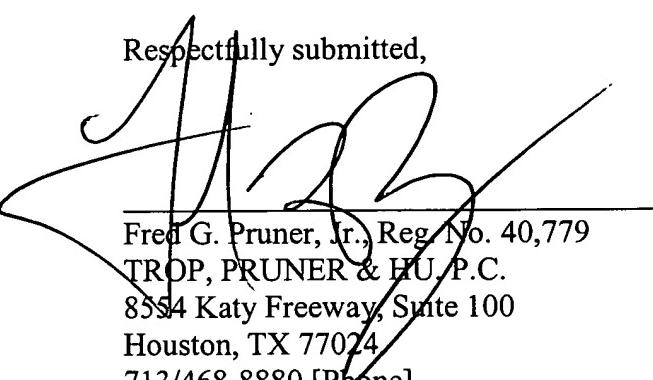
Claims 51 and 52 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0084US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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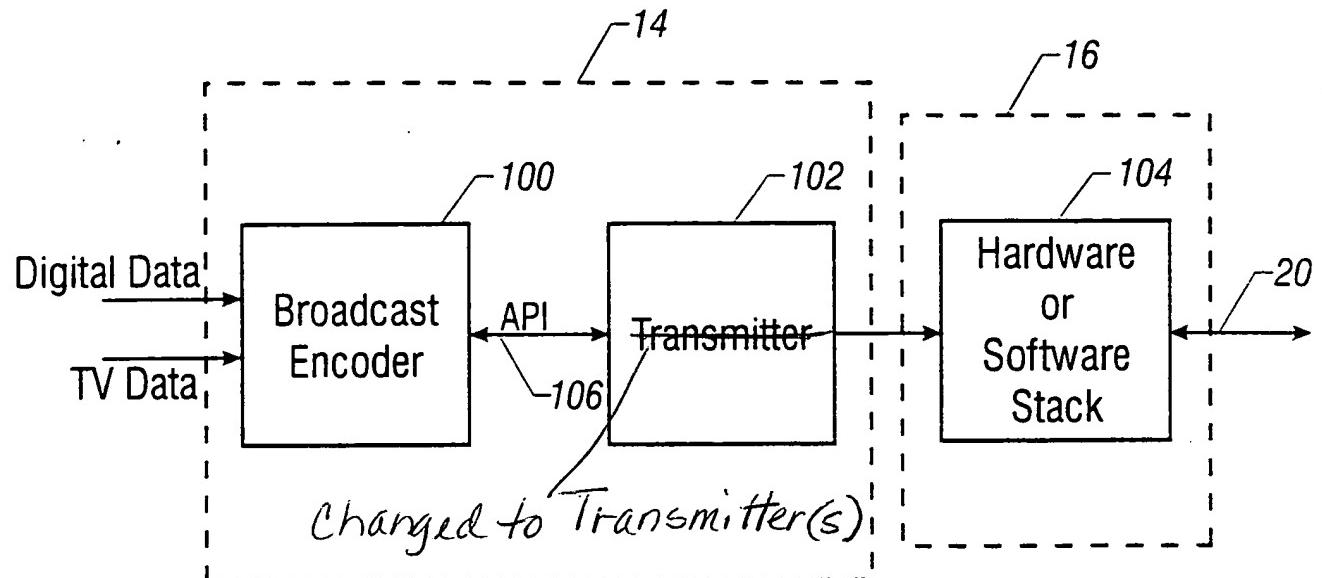


FIG. 2

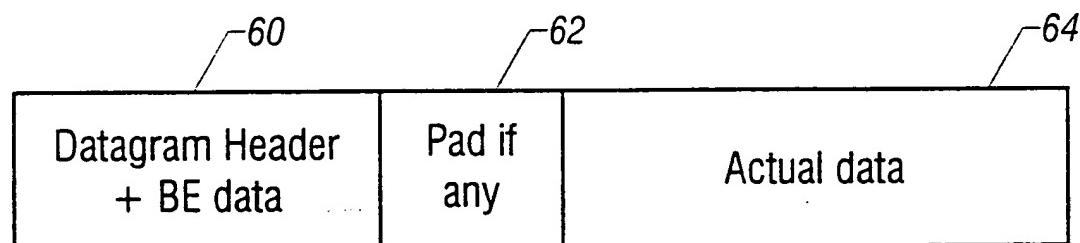


FIG. 3